• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XXIV SEPTEMBER, 1957 NUMBER 9

Pictured above is one of five three-branch manifolds being manufactured by the Southwest Welding and Manufacturing Company for pump delivery line number three at each of the pumping plants. The manifolds will take the water delivered by pumping units seven, eight and nine into the main delivery line. Each of the three branches is 6 feet in diameter tapering into 10 feet at the large end which will connect with the delivery line.

District Board Sets Water Rates for the Coming Year

Rates at which Colorado River water will be sold by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to its constituent cities and areas beginning July 1, 1958, were established by the District Board of Directors at its meeting on September 10. Announcement of the new rates effective next year was made by Board Chairman Joseph Jensen.

Four rates were approved for different classes of water and water service. Two of these rates are the same as the rates now in effect. In the other two rates an increase was provided.

The rate for natural unsoftened Colorado River water for replenishing seriously depleted underground basins and for agricultural uses remains at $12 an acre-foot. The rate for natural unsoftened Colorado River water for other uses including domestic and municipal was fixed at $15 per acre-foot, an increase of $3 per acre-foot. The rate for softened and filtered Colorado River water for replenishing underground basins and agricultural uses remains at $22 an acre-foot. The rate for softened and filtered Colorado River water for other uses including domestic and municipal was set at $25, an increase of $3 an acre-foot.

Chairman Jensen pointed out that an acre-foot of water is enough to cover an acre to the depth of one foot and is equal to 325,000 gallons.

The rates set by the Metropolitan Water District are wholesale rates to the cities and constituent areas of the District. The District, he pointed out, does not deliver water to individual consumers. These consumers purchase their water from the municipally or privately owned water systems serving water in their respective areas at retail rates.

If the 1958 Colorado River water rate is passed on to the individual consumer, Mr. Jensen stated, it could result in a

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Proration of Water Advised by Chairman Jensen

In time of a seasonal or drought shortage of water the shortage should be prorated on a share and share alike basis between the areas of origin and the areas to which the water is being exported, it was stated recently by Joseph Jensen, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District. The statement was made before an Editor's Forum of the Ventura County Feather River Project Association and the Ventura County Chamber of Commerce on September 16.

Following are excerpts from Mr. Jensen's remarks:

"My discussion will cover 'Firm Water Allocation to Contracting Agencies for Feather River Water.' Whether water will be set aside as a reservation for a watershed of origin or by contract for permanent service in an area of defi-

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DIRECTOR GORDON B. CRARY
10 Years on District Board

Director Gordon B. Crary, one of the Los Angeles representatives on the District Board of Directors, has been presented with his 10-year service pin by Board Chairman Joseph Jensen.

Mr. Crary was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico but moved with his family to Los Angeles in 1896. After graduating from Stanford University he went into the real estate and building business with his father and brother. Later he and his brother engaged in the security business and in 1928 he became a partner in the firm of E. F. Hutton and Company, and is in charge of all of the firm's activities west of Chicago.

Mr. Crary is a member of the Los Angeles Stock Exchange Club, the California Club, the Balboa Bay Club, and the Newport Harbor Yacht Club. He is also a member of the Airport Commission, a director of the Tidewater Oil Company, the Mission Development Company, the Brea Canyon Oil Company and the Los Angeles World Affairs Council.

On the District Board he is a member of the Land Committee and of the Finance and Insurance Committee.

Donald M. Keith
Assistant General Counsel

Donald M. Keith Named Assistant General Counsel

Donald M. Keith, a Deputy General Counsel of the Metropolitan Water District since 1935, has been named Assistant General Counsel by the District Board of Directors. He fills the vacancy created when Charles C. Cooper, Jr. was appointed General Counsel following the retirement of James H. Howard from that position.

Mr. Keith was born in Bay City, Michigan but has been a resident of California since 1911. He attended Hollywood High School and the University of Southern California where he received his LL.B Degree from the College of Law in 1916.

He enlisted in the United States Army in Paris, France in 1917 and served in several major engagements. After being discharged from the service, he became a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Los Angeles, serving in this capacity from 1921 to 1929.

After engaging in private practice from 1929 to 1935, Mr. Keith joined the legal staff of the District. In 1941 he was ordered back to active duty with the Army in the office of the Judge Advocate and in 1943 was appointed a member of the War Department of Contract Appeals until 1946 when he was relieved from duty. He served successively in grades from Captain to Colonel.

He then resumed his duties with the District, assisting primarily in matters involving the Colorado River controversy. In 1951 he was again called to active duty in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army and served until 1952, when he returned to his duties with the District.

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed September, 1957 covering District operations for August, 1957.)

Colorado River—The water surface elevation of Lake Mead rose 6.37 feet in August to elevation 1182.34 feet above sea level, and usable storage increased 841,000 acre-feet to 21,498,000 acre-feet. The average rate of discharge from Hoover Dam was 12,800 cubic feet per second as compared with the same release in July, 1957, and 11,550 in August, 1956.

Pumping and Power — Hayfield pumping plant delivered 55,448 acre-feet of Colorado River water in August as compared with 56,889 acre-feet in July, and 42,714 acre-feet in August, 1956. The District's share of Parker energy was 27,181,380 kwhrs, all of which was used in the District system. Edison interchange energy delivered to the Distrit was 32,328,000 kwhrs. Peak delivery to and from Edison Company was 120,000 kw and 135,000 kw respectively.

Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant — Colorado River water was softened from 355 to 225 ppm of hardness at an average rate of 475 cfs during August. The daily rate of flow varied from 395 to 543 cfs. The total volume of water treated in August was 28,923 acre-feet as compared with 23,506 acre-feet in August, 1956.

Construction—Progress on construction work on the distribution system was as follows: Schedules 56SC and 57SC (Middle Feeder) the work is 83 per cent complete; Schedules 58SC and 59SC (Middle Feeder) the contract is 75 per cent complete; Schedule 59A (Middle Feeder) the contract is 81 per cent complete; Schedule 62P (Culver City Lateral) the contract is 3 per cent complete; and on Schedules 63P and 64P (Culver City Lateral) the contract is 17 per cent complete.

Pumping Plant Expansion—On installation of Pumping Unit 6 the contract is 50 per cent complete. The work is 81 per cent complete at Intake, 75 per cent at Gene, 58 per cent at Iron Mountain, 30 per cent at Eagle Mountain, and 20 per cent at Hayfield.

Siphon work on Contracts 669 and 672 (Earp to Whitewater) are 12 per cent and 6 per cent complete.

Purchasing — Total expenditures covered by 434 purchase orders and 3 agreements were approximately $152,-227.

Hortense Helgesen

Hortense Helgesen Retires As Treasurer of the District

Hortense Helgesen retired as Treasurer of the Metropolitan Water District at the end of September after more than 25 years of service with the District.

Mrs. Helgesen started working for the District as a Stenographer in 1931. She worked in that capacity in various departments until 1939, when she resigned. She returned to work in the Treasurer's office in 1940. Later she worked in the Employment office and in the office of the General Manager and Chief Engineer.

In 1943 she was made Assistant Treasurer and a year later was named to the post of Assistant Controller. In 1947 she returned to the position of Assistant Treasurer and in 1956 she was selected by the Board of Directors as Treasurer to fill the vacancy created by the death of Ira R. Pontius.

Hortense and her husband are building a new home in Vista where they plan to live in their retirement.

Proration of Water

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ciency, the right to that water in both cases should be the same. The question then presents itself of what will happen if there is a seasonal or drought shortage. Obviously only one thing should happen where people are involved—the shortage should be prorated or, perhaps better said, the available water should be prorated. It means that in seasons of water shortage the shortage is to be shared—share and share alike—by the area of origin and the area to which the water is being exported. Of course, existing rights will not be subject to this proration nor otherwise impaired.

"While the Metropolitan Water District Board believes there must be 'Firm Water Allocation to Contracting Agencies for Feather River Water' it does not mean that if there is a shortage of water that the fixed amount of the contract must be secured at the expense of the watersheds of origin. That is to say, that the right to whatever water is reserved to an area of origin or allocated to an area of deficiency shall not be impaired. This view relative to proration was explained at the first Governor's conference on water at Sacramento last November.

"Once construction of a great water project is completed, a number of years will elapse before all the water of the project can be used. It is obvious, therefore, that if at any time in the years during which this water is being absorbed in an area of deficiency that the growth of the watersheds of origin will likewise have demonstrated their requirements. Therefore the watersheds of origin and the area of deficiency will have time in which to anticipate their future needs and to prepare for the same.

"It is to be hoped that the apprehension of some of our friends in the watersheds of origin will be relieved as to their understanding of a firm contract for water for areas of deficiency when it is understood that in time of seasonal or drought shortage, available water will be prorated.

"It has been said that there is plenty of water available in California for all our needs. Even granting that that is true, water is not available to all at the same time and at the same cost. Nonetheless in the future, as the State grows it will be possible to undertake larger and larger projects just as they have been undertaken by many communities in the past."

Water Rates Set

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3% increase to the average domestic consumer, or about 10¢ a month.

Chairman Jensen pointed out that the District is now in the midst of a $200 million Colorado River Aqueduct expansion program in order to meet a tremendous increase in the need for Colorado River water to supply a skyrocketing population and a continuing industrial growth.

"It is vitally necessary to push forward with all speed the District's expansion work to bring water to the Southern California coastal plain to help replenish seriously depleted underground water basins and to prevent further intrusion of salt water into these invaluable basins," Mr. Jensen stated.

"A sharp increase in labor and material costs have been important factors in bringing about a marked increase in overall construction costs," he said.

The Metropolitan Water District includes 79 incorporated cities and large unincorporated areas in the five counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego, with a population of more than 6,500,000 people. The District's construction program now under way, Mr. Jensen stated, will bring the aqueduct to its full planned delivery capacity of more than one billion gallons a day and will be able to meet the needs of about four million more people in the District areas. The expansion program is scheduled for completion late in 1960, Mr. Jensen said.

Chester G. Olson

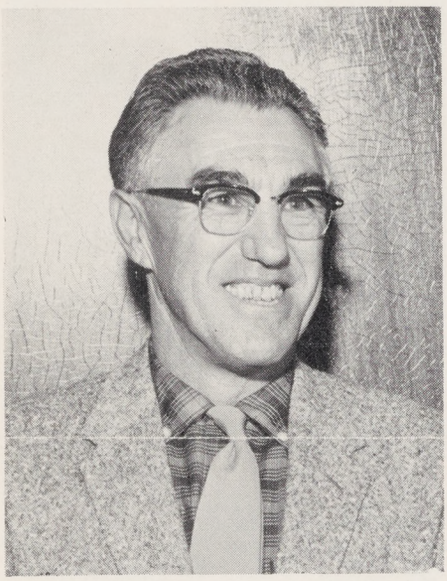
Chester G. Olson Named To Position of Treasurer

Chester G. Olson, Chief Accountant for the Metropolitan Water District since 1952, has been named to the position of Treasurer by the District Board of Directors. Mr. Olson succeeds Hortense Helgesen who retired as Treasurer at the end of September.

Mr. Olson began with the District as a General Clerk in 1933. In 1936 he became an Accountant Bookkeeper and in 1938 was appointed Assistant Treasurer. After serving four years in this capacity, Mr. Olson was named to the post of Accountant.

He served as Accountant until 1952 when he assumed the duties of Chief Accountant, filling the vacancy created when Edward A. Clarke was appointed Executive Assistant Controller.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



Walter P. Smith—20 Years of Service

Walter P. Smith first went to work for the District in June 1937 as a mechanic during the construction of Iron Mountain pumping plant. He was transferred to Intake and Gene pumping plants as a foreman in December 1937 during the construction of the plants. He remained at Gene until December 1942 when he left for Military Service, joining the Sea Bees. Returning in November 1945, he was stationed at Gene pumping plant and on October 1, 1956, he received the rating of Master Mechanic, the position he now holds.

Walt is kept very busy keeping the pumping units in operating order.

* * *

The square dance group at Gene Village held a steak fry near the new swimming pool recently. The men cooked the steaks and the women supplied the salad and dessert. The meal was followed by square dancing in the recreation hall and everyone had a wonderful time.

* * *

The Parcomets of Parker Dam School had their election of officers recently and District people were named to all offices. The president is Betty Alexander, Vice President is Dorothy Hines, the Secretary is Mary Nell Shields and the Treasurer is Burt Rounds. The Parcomets is similar to the P.T.A.

* * *

Walter G. Pouliot, Assistant Engineer, was married on September 14 to Charlotte Murphy of Hollywood. The couple were married in the Little Country Church of Hollywood and honeymooned in San Francisco.

Don Sullivan, Pumping Plant Operator, and his wife, Kathy, are the proud parents of a baby boy, born on September 9 at St. Luke's Hospital in Pasadena. The young man weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces and has been named Daniel Murray. Don has recently been transferred to Iron Mountain Pumping Plant where the trio will make their home.

* * *

Elvira H. Meyrer, Secretary in the Legal Department, retired from the District on September 1 after more than 27 years of service. Immediately prior to her retirement Elvira took a vacation trip to Hawaii. She flew to the main island of Oahu where she stayed at the Hawaiian Village Hotel. While in the Islands, she took a side trip to the Island of Kauai. She enjoyed the Islands very much, and returned to the Mainland aboard the Matsonia on September 3.

* * *

Darrell Byrd, Filter Operator at the Softening Plant, and his wife Elaine, have a baby girl who arrived August 8. The young lady weighed 6 pounds, 8½ ounces and has been named Stacy Elaine.

* * *

Gene Lake Club held its election of officers for the coming year on September 20. Ed Hines was elected President and Ed Parker, Vice President. Ben Alexander was elected Secretary and Dorothy Hines was re-elected Treasurer and Tom Adams, Business Manager.

Clinton A. Weeks—20 Years of Service

C. A. (Mike) Weeks came to the District as a patrolman in June 1937, on the construction power system. He was transferred to the District's power transmission system in August, 1938, and since then has served as lineman in the operation and maintenance of the District's transmission and telephone lines, including the work of erecting overhead ground wires on the District's 230,000 volt line in 1942. Mike lives at Eagle Mountain and patrols the District's lines between Iron Mountain and Berdoo Junction. In his younger days Mike was quite a baseball player.

Walter Pouliot, center, who was married on September 14, examines an electric mixer presented to him by his District friends. Looking on, left to right, are Munson Dowd, Owen Wilson, Don Brooks and Walter Kechersen.